

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

A primary goal for CNCS is to increase the impact and reach of national service in America's communities. In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient: Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara
123 West Gutierrez
Santa Barbara, CA 93101 - 3424
(805) 965-1001

Program Contact: Denise Hinkle, fsagrants@fsacares.org

Award Amount: \$80,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

Target Geography: Santa Barbara County: The southern Santa Barbara County cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria; the unincorporated communities of Montecito and Summerland.

Program Summary:

Family Service Agency (FSA) works to ensure access to basic needs such as food and shelter while also offering case management, youth mentoring, advocacy and mental health programs for more than 16,000 individuals each year. Over the three-year project period, 225 RSVP volunteers will be recruited and placed in assignments to help K-12 students achieve education success. RSVP volunteers will serve as mentors and coaches to help with homework, arts and science projects, and provide tutoring services. It is anticipated that by the end of the three-year grant-funded period, the following K-12 success will be achieved: 45% of students (99) will show improved academic performance in literacy (i.e., reading and/or language arts) and/or mathematics; 55% of students (121) will demonstrate improved academic engagement; and 50% of child/youth participants (110) will show improved school attendance.